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H.B. No. 1891

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to Texas community schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Sec. 29.551. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "community-based organization" means a nonprofit corporation or association that is located in close proximity to the population the organization serves and that supports the academic success of students through the provision of health care, mentoring, college readiness programs, or job training.

Sec. 29.552. TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A Texas community school is a public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school that partners with one or more community-based organizations to coordinate academic, social, and health services to reduce barriers to learning and improve the quality of education for students in the community.

(b) A Texas community school offers a variety of programs and services, which may include:

(1) early childhood education;

(2) after-school and summer school academic and enrichment programs;

(3) college and career preparation;

1 (4) service learning opportunities, such as
2 internships and community service programs;

3 (5) leadership and mentoring programs;

4 (6) activities to encourage community and parent
5 engagement in students' education;

6 (7) health and social services, including services
7 provided by an individual licensed as a social worker under Chapter
8 505, Occupations Code, for students and their families; and

9 (8) parenting classes.

10 (c) A Texas community school may not provide
11 abortion-related services or referrals to an abortion provider or
12 an affiliate of an abortion provider.

13 Sec. 29.553. TRANSITION TO TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A
14 public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school may
15 transition to a Texas community school if the school:

16 (1) establishes a school community partnership team to
17 function as the campus-level planning and decision-making
18 committee required under Section 11.251, composed of the members
19 required under Section 11.251 and additional community
20 representatives;

21 (2) conducts a comprehensive on-site needs assessment
22 using the guidelines and procedures described by Section 39.106(b);

23 (3) establishes a partnership with a lead
24 community-based organization, such as Communities In Schools or an
25 education or youth services organization, that has experience in
26 developing and implementing a community school plan and that, as
27 determined by commissioner rule, supports the academic success of

1 students through the provision of health care, mentoring, college
2 readiness programs, or job training;

3 (4) develops a community school plan that satisfies
4 the requirements for a campus improvement plan under Section
5 11.253; and

6 (5) gains approval for the community school plan from:

7 (A) at least 75 percent of campus faculty and
8 staff and 75 percent of parents of students enrolled at the school;
9 and

10 (B) the board of trustees of the school district
11 in which the school is located.

12 (b) A school that transitions to a Texas community school
13 under Subsection (a) shall hire a new employee or designate a school
14 district employee or an employee of a community-based organization
15 with experience in developing and implementing a community school
16 plan as the community school coordinator for the school. The
17 coordinator's duties include:

18 (1) recruiting community partners and building
19 community support for the school;

20 (2) coordinating:

21 (A) the school community partnership team's
22 planning and training activities;

23 (B) planning and evaluation efforts between the
24 school and community partners;

25 (C) academic and student and family support
26 programs; and

27 (D) after-school, summer, and enrichment

1 programs for students;
2 (3) encouraging community and parent engagement in the
3 school;
4 (4) seeking available resources for implementing
5 community school programs and services;
6 (5) conducting an annual needs assessment of the
7 school in coordination with the school community partnership team;
8 (6) acting as a liaison between the school, other
9 community schools, the school district, and community partners; and
10 (7) developing a plan for sustaining the community
11 school plan.

12 (c) A school may not partner with an abortion provider or an
13 affiliate of an abortion provider in transitioning to a Texas
14 community school under Subsection (a) and may not hire an employee
15 of an abortion provider or an affiliate of an abortion provider as
16 the community school coordinator for the school under Subsection
17 (b).

18 (d) In developing or implementing a community school plan,
19 the school may seek assistance from other community schools,
20 regional education service centers, or technical assistance
21 providers.

22 (e) For purposes of Subsection (d), a technical assistance
23 provider is a public or private entity that has experience in
24 developing and implementing a community school plan and that
25 provides:

26 (1) professional development, training, technical
27 assistance, coaching, or quality assurance activities to assist

1 schools in transitioning to a Texas community school, sustaining
2 the community school plan, or maximizing the effectiveness of that
3 plan; or

4 (2) capacity-building training to regional education
5 service centers to enable the centers to support a school's
6 transition to a Texas community school or assist the school in
7 sustaining the school's community school plan.

8 Sec. 29.554. COMMUNITY AND DISTRICT OVERSIGHT. A school
9 that transitions to a Texas community school shall:

10 (1) hold a community meeting at least twice each year
11 to:

12 (A) inform community stakeholders about the
13 school's progress in implementing the community school plan; and

14 (B) seek community input regarding any
15 improvements or changes that could be made to the plan; and

16 (2) report annually to the board of trustees of the
17 school district in which the school is located regarding the
18 school's progress in implementing the plan.

19 Sec. 29.555. LOW-PERFORMING SCHOOLS. (a) A school
20 community partnership team formed by a school with performance
21 below any standard under Section 39.054(e) functions as the campus
22 intervention team for purposes of Section 39.106.

23 (b) A low-performing school transitioning to a Texas
24 community school shall receive district-level support to assist the
25 school in developing and implementing the community school plan.
26 The support must continue for at least two school years after the
27 school successfully meets the standards under Section 39.054(e).

1 Sec. 29.556. FUNDING. A Texas community school or a school
2 transitioning to a Texas community school may seek and accept
3 gifts, grants, donations, and funds from federal and state agencies
4 and private sources for purposes related to the school's function
5 as a Texas community school.

6 Sec. 29.557. RECOGNITION AS TEXAS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. (a) A
7 school that transitions to a Texas community school shall be
8 recognized by the state as a Texas community school.

9 (b) The agency shall develop methods for recognizing a
10 school as a Texas community school.

11 Sec. 29.558. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules as
12 necessary to implement this subchapter.

13 SECTION 2. Sections 39.106(c) and (f), Education Code, are
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (c) On completing the on-site needs assessment under this
16 section, the campus intervention team shall, with the involvement
17 and advice of the school community partnership team, if applicable,
18 recommend actions relating to any area of insufficient performance,
19 including:

- 20 (1) reallocation of resources;
- 21 (2) technical assistance;
- 22 (3) changes in school procedures or operations;
- 23 (4) staff development for instructional and
24 administrative staff;
- 25 (5) intervention for individual administrators or
26 teachers;
- 27 (6) waivers from state statutes or rules;

1 (7) teacher recruitment or retention strategies and
2 incentives provided by the district to attract and retain teachers
3 with the characteristics included in Subsection (b)(1); ~~or~~

4 (8) transition to a Texas community school under
5 Subchapter N, Chapter 29; or

6 (9) other actions the campus intervention team
7 considers appropriate.

8 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter,
9 if the commissioner determines that a campus for which an
10 intervention is ordered under Subsection (a) is not fully
11 implementing the campus intervention team's recommendations or
12 targeted improvement plan or updated plan, the commissioner may:

13 (1) order the reconstitution of the campus as provided
14 by Section 39.107; or

15 (2) approve the campus's transition to a Texas
16 community school under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, on request from
17 the principal of the campus.

18 SECTION 3. Section 39.107, Education Code, is amended by
19 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-2) and (s) to
20 read as follows:

21 (a) Subject to Subsection (a-2), after ~~After~~ a campus has
22 been identified as unacceptable for two consecutive school years,
23 the commissioner shall order the reconstitution of the campus.

24 (a-2) A campus may elect to transition to a Texas community
25 school under Subchapter N, Chapter 29, instead of reconstitution
26 under this section if:

27 (1) the campus proposes the transition to the

1 commissioner not later than two weeks after the date on which the
2 commissioner orders reconstitution under Subsection (a);

3 (2) the commissioner determines that adoption of the
4 Texas community school model will implement meaningful reform at
5 the campus and is an appropriate alternative to reconstitution or
6 any other measure available to the commissioner under this
7 subchapter; and

8 (3) the campus satisfies the requirements of
9 transitioning to a Texas community school under Subchapter N,
10 Chapter 29, not later than six months after the date on which the
11 commissioner makes the determination described by Subdivision (2).

12 (s) The commissioner may not order the closure of a campus
13 under this section without giving the campus the opportunity to
14 transition to a Texas community school under Subchapter N, Chapter
15 29, and at least two years to implement the campus's community
16 school plan unless the commissioner determines that adoption of the
17 Texas community school model will not implement meaningful reform
18 at the campus and is not an appropriate alternative to the closure
19 of the campus.

20 SECTION 4. Section 29.259, Education Code, is transferred
21 to Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, and redesignated as
22 Section 29.923, Education Code, to read as follows:

23 Sec. 29.923 [29.259]. ADULT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND
24 INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION CHARTER SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this
25 section, "adult education" means services and instruction provided
26 below the college level for adults by a nonprofit entity described
27 by Subsection (e).

1 (b) The commissioner shall establish an adult high school
2 diploma and industry certification charter school pilot program as
3 provided by this section as a strategy for meeting industry needs
4 for a sufficiently trained workforce within the state.

5 (c) The agency shall adopt and administer a standardized
6 secondary exit-level assessment instrument appropriate for
7 assessing adult education program participants who successfully
8 complete high school curriculum requirements under a program
9 provided under this section. The commissioner shall determine the
10 level of performance considered to be satisfactory on the secondary
11 exit-level assessment instrument for receipt of a high school
12 diploma by an adult education program participant in a program
13 provided under this section.

14 (d) Notwithstanding any other law and in addition to the
15 number of charters allowed under Subchapter D, Chapter 12, a
16 charter under the pilot program may, on the basis of an application
17 submitted, be granted to a single nonprofit entity described by
18 Subsection (e) to provide an adult education program for not more
19 than 150 individuals described by Subsection (g) to successfully
20 complete:

21 (1) a high school program that can lead to a diploma;

22 and

23 (2) career and technology education courses that can
24 lead to industry certification.

25 (e) A nonprofit entity may be granted a charter under this
26 section only if the entity:

27 (1) has a successful history of providing education

1 services, including industry certifications and job placement
2 services, to adults 18 years of age and older whose educational and
3 training opportunities have been limited by educational
4 disadvantages, disabilities, homelessness, criminal history, or
5 similar circumstances; and

6 (2) agrees to commit at least \$1 million to the adult
7 education program offered.

8 (f) A nonprofit entity granted a charter under this section
9 may partner with a public junior college to provide career and
10 technology courses that lead to industry certification.

11 (g) A person who is at least 19 years of age and not more
12 than 50 years of age is eligible to enroll in the adult education
13 program under this section if the person has not earned a high
14 school equivalency certificate and:

15 (1) has failed to complete the curriculum requirements
16 for high school graduation; or

17 (2) has failed to perform satisfactorily on an
18 assessment instrument required for high school graduation.

19 (h) The nonprofit entity must include in its charter
20 application the information required by Subsection (i).

21 (i) A charter granted under this section must:

22 (1) include a description of the adult education
23 program to be offered under this section; and

24 (2) establish specific, objective standards for
25 receiving a high school diploma, including satisfactory
26 performance on the standardized secondary exit-level assessment
27 instrument described by Subsection (c).

1 (j) Funding for an adult education program under this
2 section is provided based on the following:

3 (1) for participants who are 26 years of age and older,
4 an amount per participant from available general revenue funds
5 appropriated for the pilot program equal to the statewide average
6 amount of state funding per student in weighted average daily
7 attendance that would be allocated under the Foundation School
8 Program to an open-enrollment charter school under Section [12.106](#)
9 were the student under 26 years of age; and

10 (2) for participants who are at least 19 years of age
11 and under 26 years of age, an amount per participant through the
12 Foundation School Program equal to the amount of state funding per
13 student in weighted average daily attendance that would be
14 allocated under the Foundation School Program for the student's
15 attendance at an open-enrollment charter school in accordance with
16 Section [12.106](#).

17 (k) Sections [12.107](#) and [12.128](#) apply as though funds under
18 this section were funds under Subchapter D, Chapter 12.

19 (1) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
20 beginning December 1, 2016, the agency shall prepare and deliver to
21 the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of
22 representatives, and presiding officer of each standing
23 legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over public
24 education or economic development a report that:

25 (1) evaluates any adult education program operated
26 under a charter granted under this section; and

27 (2) makes recommendations regarding the abolition,

1 continuation, or expansion of the pilot program.

2 (m) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
3 administer the pilot program under this section. In adopting
4 rules, the commissioner may modify charter school requirements only
5 to the extent necessary for the administration of a charter school
6 under this section that provides for adult education.

7 SECTION 5. Section 42.003(a), Education Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) A student is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation
10 School Program if, on September 1 of the school year, the student:

11 (1) is 5 years of age or older and under 21 years of age
12 and has not graduated from high school, or is at least 21 years of
13 age and under 26 years of age and has been admitted by a school
14 district to complete the requirements for a high school diploma; or

15 (2) is at least 19 years of age and under 26 years of
16 age and is enrolled in an adult high school diploma and industry
17 certification charter school pilot program under Section 29.923
18 [~~29.259~~].

19 SECTION 6. (a) The heading to Subchapter H, Chapter 29,
20 Education Code, is repealed.

21 (b) Sections 7.021(b)(8), 7.102(c)(17), 29.251, 29.252,
22 29.255, 29.256, and 29.257, Education Code, are repealed.

23 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.